(d) The income deposited with SETE was primarily intended to be used for replacement of obsolete test equipment, purchase of criticafl spares & repair and maintenance of equipment held by STQC laboratories. This became absolutely essential due to paucity of funds for capital equipment after the expiry of German project support for STQC.

The total amount deposited with SETE during the period 1994-95 to 1999-2000 was Rs. 846.59 lakhs. This amount increased to Rs. 1114 lakhs due to interest. Out of this amount, STQC was authorized to spend Rs. 900 lakhs for procurement of Test & Measuring equipment for labs and the remaining amount of Rs. 214 lakhs was deposited with CFI.

Tariff hike in postal items

170. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have lately increased the postage fee in respect of post cards and ordinary letter, considerably;

(b) if so. the details in this regard; and

(c) the reasons therefor, especially in this regard to the poor man's post-card ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The Government have increased the postage fee in respect of letter with effect from 1-6-2002. The rate of post card has not been increased. The rate of post card continues to be 50 paise per card. The revised tariff for letter is as under :

For a weight not exceeding 20 grams	Rs. 5/-
For every additional 20 gms or fraction'thereof	Rs. 5/-

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.